

“them.” No more “we” in American politics; you “us” and “them.” That was the salience of this whole Bob Jones University thing in the primaries—for those of us that are southerners, anyway, that went through that.

And what’s happened? We’ve been living with that legacy ever since. And one of the reasons that I ran for President is I didn’t like “us” and “them” politics. I didn’t mind disagreeing with the Republicans, but I don’t think I should have to demonize them, and I don’t think I should ever shut my door to them. And if they’ve got a good idea, I don’t think I ought to run away from it. And I believe we ought to build this country with anybody’s new ideas, as long as you believe everybody counts, everybody should have a chance, everybody’s got a role to play, we all do better when we help each other. That’s what I think.

And the point I was trying to make today, I’ll just make it to you—I want you to think about this tonight. I’m telling you in 1964 when I graduated from high school, we thought we were on automatic. We thought that sucker was going to fly. And it came apart. The wheels came off in no time. And every one of you, if you’ve lived long enough, can remember a personal incident in your life or your business life when the wheels came off because you thought everything was going so well, nothing bad could happen.

This is a time for vigilance, for devotion, for patriotism in the best sense. I’ve waited for 35 years for this, and I’ve worked hard for 7 years to give you the chance to finish building this bridge to tomorrow, building the future of our dreams for our children. But just as a citizen, I think America got a second chance in my lifetime. That’s what this election is about. That’s why you want people like her in office, people that know it’s a job; it’s about ideas; it’s about work; it’s about people; it’s about giving everybody a chance.

And if you define the election in the right way, with a sense of urgency, you will predetermine the winner. This election cycle—you mark my words, from President through all the congressional races down to every other one, the winner will be determined by how the employers—that’s you, now—define the job.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:40 p.m. at a private residence. In his remarks, he referred to dinner cohosts Sanford R. and Jeanne Robertson and Garen and Sheri Staglin; and Eric Schmidt, chief executive officer, Novell. The President also referred to California’s proposition 26, School Facilities Local Majority Vote, to permit a simple majority for school bond issues as opposed to the super majority currently required.

Remarks at a Democratic National Committee Reception in San Francisco March 3, 2000

Thank you. I want to—you’re looking here at a medical miracle. I got up this morning at 3 o’clock in the morning your time, and I’m still going. [Laughter] I’m glad to be back with Susie and Mark, and I’m glad to be here with all of you.

The major thing I would like to do tonight is have a chance to visit with you, so I think I’ll forgo the speech and come around and just visit, and we’ll all talk about whatever you’d like to talk about.

And Mayor Rendell, thank you for being here. Let me say, I’ve had a great night tonight. I made two appearances for Senator Feinstein and the Democratic Senate Campaign Committee,

and we had very good crowds, and we talked a lot about what’s going on in America today. So maybe we can have some visits about it, and I look forward to it. Thank you very much for coming.

And give us some more music. I love that. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:29 p.m. at a private residence. In his remarks, he referred to reception hosts Susie Thompkins Buell and Mark Buell; and Edward G. Rendell, general chair, Democratic National Committee. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.